



ASSEMBLYMEMBER
NICOLE PARRA

Representing the 30th Assembly District



Parra Notes

January 12, 2007

Hello Friends:

There has been a whirlwind of activity in the State Capitol this week. On Monday Governor Schwarzenegger unveiled the details of his **Health Care Plan**, on Tuesday the Governor addressed the State Assembly and Senate in his annual **State of the State** address, and on Wednesday the Governor released his initial **Budget Proposal for the 2007 – 2008 fiscal year**.

In each of his speeches and or proposals the Governor has shown that his **desire for post partisanship is more than just lip service** by going out of his way to remain balanced while attempting to provide solutions to some of California's biggest issues. With so many ideas on the table it will prove to be an interesting and long year.

A lot of things will change through public review and committee hearings in the coming months, but I look forward to meeting with many of you to discuss the implications of the proposals the Governor has put forward.

Review the Governor's Budget yourself by clicking [here](#). To see some of the highlights click [here](#).

As always, if you know anyone who would enjoy receiving Parra Notes please have them e-mail Michael.tamariz@asm.ca.gov and they will be added to our distribution list.

Health Care

I am pleased that the Governor and Leadership have all **taken bold steps forward to address the Health Care Crisis** facing the Central Valley and the rest of the State. I look forward to discussing ways that we can also **address the Valley's need to recruit and train health professionals** in order to truly provide health care for all. ([Click here to view the proposal](#))

As we move forward in the evaluation of these Health Care proposals we must also be aware of the **impact they would have on small businesses** in the Valley. We must ensure that current and future small business owners do not face any undo hardship.

To address these concerns **I will be holding two Town Hall Meetings to discuss each of the Health Care Proposals** and their impact on the 30th Assembly District. Health Care is one of the most important issues facing the state this legislative session and I want to make sure my constituents are aware of the proposals and have an opportunity to let me know how they feel.

While details of the event are pending we do know one Town Hall will be in Hanford, while the second will be in Bakersfield. If you would like to be among the first to hear more, **please call my office with your name and e-mail address**

so that we can keep in contact with you regarding the event.

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Governor’s Budget

This year’s budget, like many in the past, is full of things to be pleased with and things that present concern and will require monitoring as the budget discussion moves forward.

The good:

- Governor’s proposed budget has eliminated the operating deficit that has faced the State in years past.
- Education is fully funded as required by Proposition 98.
- 2 million dollars for inspectors to prevent e-coli like outbreaks.
- Proposed elimination of some tax loopholes for extremely wealthy individuals.
- 2.3 million to reopen 40 skilled nursing beds at the Barstow Veterans Home over the next two fiscal years.

Areas of Concern:

- Proposed elimination of the Teachers Tax Credit
 - Capping the State participation for In Home Supportive Services wages at the January 10, 2007 levels.
 - Cutting welfare for children in order to pay down bonds held by wealthy Wall Street Investors early.
 - Cuts to outreach programs that encourage Valley students to attend UC and CSU schools.
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Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley

On Wednesday Assembly Republican Leader Mike Villines and I sat down with Mark Keppler to **discuss the future of the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley**. The **Maddy Report** segment will cover the history and progress of the partnership in addition to the interview.

I am excited at the opportunity to work with the Partnership and the entire Valley Delegation in order to modernize our infrastructure, improve our schools, and increase the economic viability of the region. For years the entire state has been paying to build LA and San Francisco, it’s time for the entire state to help build the Valley. ([click here for more information on the Partnership](#))

You can watch the full report on **KSEE 24** (Fresno) on **January 13th at 6:30** and **January 20th at 4:30**. There are currently discussions to bring the segment to Bakersfield and other areas across the state, keep reading Parra Notes for updates.

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Important Notes for the Valley

- I met with **Joel Nelson of CA Citrus Mutual** to discuss the current **cold front in California** and the potential need to impose a **harvest moratorium** if temperatures reach the low expected levels that have not been seen since 1998. Here is some information you should know for this weekend:

A Freeze Outlook has been issued for the Central and Southern San Joaquin Valley for Friday through Monday. A very cold air mass will settle into Central California late

this week and persist through the weekend. The forecast calls for hard freeze conditions occurring over the Central and Southern San Joaquin Valley each morning beginning Friday and persisting through Monday. Low temperatures on Friday morning will fall into the 25 to 30 degree range with colder locations bottoming out near 22 degrees. Even colder lows are possible Saturday and Sunday mornings with most locations falling into the 23 to 28 degree range with coldest spots possibly falling into the 19 to 22 degree range. Some moderation may occur by Monday morning, however, another hard freeze may still be possible.

- I have written a letter to the appropriate Secretaries requesting them to **be prepared** in the event that this freeze causes as much damage as the 1998 freeze, which caused over **\$700 million worth of damage** to Central Valley agriculture and housing.
- I am pleased to announce that **I will be co-authoring SB 59** (Cogdill). SB 59 would authorize almost **\$4 billion** in general obligation bonds to increase surface water storage, groundwater and conjunctive use, improving the Delta, encouraging water use efficiency, and environmental restoration programs. It would also authorize the sale of \$2 billion in Revenue bonds **for the construction of a dam at Temperance Flat** as well as a site north of the Delta. ([click here to see a full version of SB 59](#))
- This weekend I will be named **Legislature of the Year by the California Association of Firearms Retailers (CARF)**. I am honored to be receiving the award on behalf of the CRAF and I look forward to continuing the relationship I have built with the group in my previous 4 years in the legislature.
- I met with representatives from the **City of Porterville** to discuss their concerns about the **budget and the construction of their courthouse**. I look forward to working with all elected officials to ensure that the Central Valley's concerns are heard and represented throughout the year.
- I wrapped up my week by having dinner with Council **Members, Grace Vallejo (Delano), Sam Ramirez (Delano) and Carlton Jones (Tulare)**. I want to thank all the elected officials that were here for the **California League of Cities Conference** and stopped by my office.

Bill Ideas

It's that time of year again. My legislative staff and I are sitting down to discuss our legislative package for the year and we are very interested in your ideas. If you would like to submit an idea for inclusion in our bill package discussions please submit your idea, along with your name, address, and phone number (for follow-up purposes only) to

Brandon.Sanders@asm.ca.gov.

Meeting Requests

If you or your organization would like to set up a time to meet with me or would like for me to attend an event you are sponsoring, please feel free to contact my **Executive Secretary Anna Goddard** at (916) 319-2030 or by e-mail at Anna.Goddard@asm.ca.gov.

Interns Wanted

I am accepting applications for the internship program in my **Hanford, Bakersfield** and **Sacramento** offices. Candidates should be residents of the **30th Assembly District**, possess solid research and communication skills, and have a strong interest in public policy and political issues facing the **Central Valley**. Applications can be found by going to:

<http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a30>.

For Hanford office internships contact **Richard Valle** at (559) 585-7170 or by e-mail at:

Richard.Valle@asm.ca.gov.

For Bakersfield office internships contact **Nerissa Robinson** at (661) 334-3745 or by e-mail at:

Nerissa.Robinson@asm.ca.gov

For Sacramento office internships contact **Brandon Sanders** at (916) 319-2030 or by e-mail at:

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